



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PHOENIX MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO DEFRAUDING SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAMS

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona, and the Office of the Inspector General/Social Security Administration, announced today that on June 19, 2001 **HOWARD RICHARD HOROWITZ** entered a plea of guilty to a one-count Criminal Indictment for defrauding Social Security programs of \$29,938.00. The Criminal Indictment, resulting from an investigation conducted by Special Agents from the Phoenix office of the Social Security Administration/Office of Inspector General, charged Theft of Government Property.

According to the Indictment, HOROWITZ, whose name was on a joint account with his mother, continued to received and spend for his own personal use Social Security Widow's Survivor benefits deposited into his deceased mother's account. HOROWITZ admitted to concealing his mother's death from the Social Security Administration in order to withdraw and use the funds. Sentencing before United States District Judge Stephen M. McNamee is scheduled for September 10, 2001. HOROWITZ faces a maximum penalty of imprisonment for not more than ten years or a fine of \$250,000.00, or both.

The criminal prosecution is the result of a joint effort between the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona and the Social Security Administration/Office of the Inspector General to identify

and prosecute fraud against Social Security benefit programs. The prosecution is being handled by John K. Webb, Special Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR 01-0349-PHX-EHC

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